

sensor detecting touch. The same capacitive touch sensor may be responsible for detecting user's clicks, double-clicks etc.

[0044] The most important circuit of the system is the rheological fluid activation controller 307, which based on the input from the accelerometer 302 determined which activation means 108 are to be activated in the current position of the device 101. Preferably, the level of the rheological fluid is also taken into account by the rheological fluid activation controller 307 when determining which activation means should be activated.

[0045] In case when there are only two activation means when electrorheological fluid is used, the input of the accelerometer 302 is not required as a part of the determination.

[0046] FIG. 4 shows a method according to the present invention. The method starts at step 401 where the system awaits detection of an operator's hand by the operator's hand detector 306 (There may be other predefined conditions required for the rheological fluid activation controller 307 to control the rheological fluid activation means 108) so that the spherical device 101 may switch between a free rolling state and a fixed state and vice versa.

[0047] In case the operator's hand is detected on the device 101, at step 402 the systems allows a free flow of the rheological fluid within the cavity 105 i.e. the rheological fluid activation controller 307 deactivates all activation means 108.

[0048] As long as the operator holds the device 101, the system allows free flow of the rheological fluid 403. When the operator's hand detector 306 detects 404 that the operator has released the device 101, it preferably immediately notifies the rheological fluid activation controller 307 that activates selected activation means 108 in order to make the rheological fluid solid 405 in the cavity 105. The rheological fluid activation controller 307 may take into account the input from the accelerator 302 and the amount/level of rheological fluid that may be stored as a parameter in the memory 309.

[0049] The advantages of the present invention utilizing a gyroscope-based input device having a spherical shape are that the wrist and arm of a user will be resting on a stable surface, avoiding unwanted stress on hand's muscles, more precise when manipulating on small icons or checkboxes of a Graphical User Interface, the device can be used on various rough surfaces, clothes, couches etc not suitable for example for optical devices.

[0050] Additionally, the automatic, adaptive balancing of an input device 101, according to the present invention, avoids unwanted cursor movement or click when the input device 101 is in an idle state.

[0051] It can be easily recognized, by one skilled in the art, that the aforementioned method for balancing an input device may be performed and/or controlled by one or more computer programs. Such computer programs are typically executed by utilizing the computing resources of the device. The computer programs can be stored in a non-volatile memory, for example a flash memory or in a volatile memory, for example RAM and are executed by the processing unit. These memories are exemplary recording media for storing computer programs comprising computer-executable instructions performing all the steps of the computer-implemented method according the technical concept presented herein.

[0052] While the invention presented herein has been depicted, described, and has been defined with reference to particular preferred embodiments, such references and examples of implementation in the foregoing specification do not imply any limitation on the invention. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader scope of the technical concept. The presented preferred embodiments are exemplary only, and are not exhaustive of the scope of the technical concept presented herein.

[0053] Accordingly, the scope of protection is not limited to the preferred embodiments described in the specification, but is only limited by the claims that follow.

[0054] In addition, any combination of the appended claims in envisaged in the present application.

1. A system for balancing an input device, the system comprising:

a spherical device 101 having an outer spherical wall 102 and an inner spherical wall 103

the system being characterized in that it further comprises:

an internal circuitry module 106 housing internal circuits and positioned in the center of the spherical device 101 and balanced in the center in order hold the spherical device 101 still on a flat surface;

a cavity 105 formed between the outer spherical wall 102 and the inner spherical wall 103;

a rheological fluid disposed in the cavity 105

wherein the volume of the rheological fluid is below 50% of the volume of the cavity 105 and such that the weight of the rheological fluid is above the weight of the spherical device 101 without the rheological fluid;

wherein at least one of the outer spherical wall 102 and the inner spherical wall 103 comprises a rheological fluid activation means 108 configured to change the state of the rheological fluid; and

a rheological fluid activation controller 307 configured to control the rheological fluid activation means 108 in response to occurrence of a predefined condition so that the spherical device 101 may switch between a free rolling state and a fixed state.

2. The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the rheological fluid is an electrorheological fluid or a magnetorheological fluid.

3. The system according to claim 2, characterized in that in case of the electrorheological fluid the activation means 108 are electrodes, while in case of the magnetorheological fluid the activation means 108 are coils.

4. The system according to claim 1, characterized in that there are 8 activation means 108 per perimeter on the inner wall 103 and/or the outer wall 102.

5. The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the spherical device 101 comprises an accelerometer 302 based on the output of which the rheological fluid activation controller 307 will determine which subset of the activation means 108 shall be activated depending on the position of the spherical device 101.

6. The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the activation means 108 are positioned adjacent each other.

7. The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the activation means 108 are spread by a distance between them.

8. The system according to claim 5, characterized in that based on a vector of acceleration, determined from the